

# ALLIES STRIKE BACK AT FOE ON MARNE FRONT OF 25 MILES

## GAINS ARE REPORTED IN SOUTHERN SECTORS AS FAR AS BELLEAU

Progress Is Made at Some Points to Depth of Between Mile and a Half and Two Miles—Prisoners Taken Early in the Advance Still Coming in—Northern Point of Front of Drive Is Fontenoy, Nearly Mile From River—Situation on Marne Unchanged.

On the French Front in France, July 18—(By the Associated Press)—The Allied forces today are engaged in an important counter attack between the Aisne and the Marne, north of Chateau Thierry.

The attack is progressing favorably. Paris, July 18—The French this morning delivered an attack along the line from the river Aisne as far south as the region of Belleau, a front of about 25 miles, and made progress at certain points of between a mile and a half and two miles, the war office announced today.

The situation on the Marne and Champagne front is unchanged. Early in the movement prisoners taken in the advance began coming in.

The northern point of the front of attack is Fontenoy, nearly a mile north of the river Aisne.

In the fighting on the front of the German offensive the French last night stopped the Germans in the face of violent attacks which the enemy launched, southwest of Nanteuil la Fosse, between the Marne and Rheims.

On the front beyond Rheims, east of the Vesle river, an attack by German guard units was completely repulsed.

On the French Front in France, Wednesday, July 17—(By the Associated Press)—While both the enemy and the Allied armies generally were marking time, the Italians tonight carried out a brilliant counter attack near Poirce, north of the Marne, after the Germans had harried them by incessant attacks during the day. They drove the enemy back into the valley of the Ardre river.

Other sectors both north and south of the river Marne saw many small local actions, but nothing partaking of the character of a general engagement.

Numerous hand to hand encounters occurred.

The enemy is still trying hard to make progress toward Epernay by way of Venteuil on the north and Oeuilly and Montvoisin on the south of the Marne. Montvoisin changed hands several times, the French eventually gaining some ground.

Nowhere along the front did the Germans obtain an advantage during the day. Heavy fighting with constant attacks has been taking place in the vicinity of Courton wood, where, owing to the nature of the ground, the situation is most difficult.

East of Rheims the day was comparatively quiet, but the French recaptured some trenches in the vicinity of Prunay and repulsed attacks between Beaumont and Sillery.

Premier Clemenceau returned last evening from a visit to the front, expressing himself as very well satisfied with the situation.

## FOE IS DEMORALIZED BY RAIDS IN FLANDERS

Troops in Some Portions of Trenches So Exhausted by Constant Attacks They Fall Asleep at Posts.

With the British Army in France, Wednesday, July 17—(By the Associated Press)—German troops in some portions of the trenches in Flanders have been so exhausted and demoralized by constant British raids, attacks and bombardments that many of them have fallen asleep at their posts.

An order issued to a Bavarian infantry regiment reveals a condition of affairs that up to this time would have been thought unbelievable in an army notorious for the strictness of its discipline. The commanding officer wrote on June 25:

"While making a tour of the line this morning I came across complete sections fast asleep in spite of its being dawn and misty. These sections had removed their equipment and had not the faintest idea of the country, of dispositions, of their orders or of the troops on their flanks. Much activity continues behind the German front, but the infantry has remained very quiet since the beginning of the present German offensive around Rheims. No attempt has been made to recover the ground lost at Ridge wood on Monday when the British captured 341 men and seven officers. The Germans have remained passive. Repeated British thrusts around Bailleul. Only the artillery has indulged in retaliation.

## AMERICANS ARE ENGAGED IN BIG COUNTER-STROKE

### BILLIARD ROOMS THROWN OPEN TO UNIFORMED MEN

Bridgeport War Bureau Arranges For Use—Jitney Drivers to Give Rides.

The Bridgeport War Bureau has arranged through Henry S. Osborne, for the free use by enlisted men of the United States while in uniform of the billiard and pool rooms and bowling alleys of the following places: Connie Lewis, 166 Fairfield avenue; The Brunswick company, 28 Fairfield avenue; Sheridan Billiard Academy, 1066 Broad street; John H. Eckler, Jr., 874 Main street; Belino Billiard Parkers, 1350 State street; Arcade Bowling Alley, 85 John street; West End Bowling Alley, 1374 State street; Palace Billiard and Bowling Academy, 115 Congress street; Shaw's Billiard Hall, 473 Barnum avenue.

This generous action on the part of these billiard and pool rooms and bowling alleys will furnish our soldiers and sailors with safe places in which to find enjoyment and recreation. The War Bureau has sent a special letter of thanks to each one of the proprietors of these places.

The War Bureau has also arranged through Captain Wheeler of the traffic squad for the free use by all enlisted men in uniform of a large number of the jitneys engaged in operation in Bridgeport. The list of these will be published later. The service rendered by the jitneys will be especially appreciated by them. We have about 250 enlisted men in Bridgeport, many of them at the Naval Base and others at distant points from the center of the city. Use of the jitneys will mean a great deal to them.

The War Bureau has requested the Connecticut company to furnish free transportation of all enlisted men in uniform. It is expected that an answer will be given after the meeting of the trustees of the Connecticut company to be held next Tuesday.

The War Bureau is endeavoring to find a suitable place, centrally located, for a clubhouse for men in the service of the United States who may happen to be in Bridgeport. Any one knowing of a house, or rooms that would be suitable for such a purpose as this should at once notify the War Bureau.

Arrangements have been made for designation of the jitneys for free service to men in uniform, and under orders of Supt. J. H. Redgate each machine for such service will be marked by a disk in yellow bearing the words: "War Service, No. \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department." Any soldier or sailor in uniform will be entitled to a free ride in any of the machines so designated.

### ROB POSTOFFICE GET \$10,000 AT NORTH WOODBURY

Liberty Bonds and War Stamps Belonging to Residents in Haul.

Woodbury, July 18—Liberty bonds, thrift and war stamps and securities belonging to residents which had been placed in care of the postmaster, all to an estimated value of \$10,000, were taken by burglars who last night blew open the safe in the North Woodbury post office which is in the store of H. S. Canfield. Little money was taken and postal matter was hardly disturbed. Three weeks ago the store was broken into and a quantity of shoes was taken. The safe was not touched then.

The same men tried to get into the Woodbury post office but a barking dog frightened them away. They had obtained blankets from the Curtis barn and tools from the wagon shop of Mr. Hitchcock. The blankets were found where they had been piled up before the men were scared off.

Mr. Canfield had served as stamp agent and Liberty bond salesman in North Woodbury and purchasers had also left these with him for safe keeping. Others had placed securities of various kinds with him to be protected.

### REPORT SCORES RIVER CAPTAIN

Washington, July 18—"Unskillful navigation and neglect" are charged against the captain of the steamer Columbia, in a preliminary report to Secretary of the Interior Redfield by the inspectors of the Illinois river disaster that caused the loss of more than 100 lives.

### LAUDS WHITMAN FOR WAR RECORD AT CONVENTION

Temporary Chairman Fasset, at Saratoga Pleads for Republican Unity.

Convention Hall, Saratoga, N. Y., July 18—A plea for party unity in this time of war, an unqualified endorsement of the war record of Gov. Charles S. Whitman and a declaration that his administration has been "clean, efficient and utterly without scandal," and a most eloquent enunciation of patriotic principles, marked the "keynote" address today of the Republican state convention. Mr. Fasset said the Republican party had stood solidly behind President Wilson in his war policies, and that Republican representatives and senators "have supported the president and the administration better than the members of his own party."

After cordially welcoming the newly enfranchised women into Republican ranks Mr. Fasset, in part, said:

"We meet as Republicans, members of the majority party in the state and the minority party in the United States. But we are far more than Republicans, we are Americans, the best means whereby the interests of the country may be served. We may well challenge our political opponents to a noble rivalry in service to the state."

"The administration has been clean, efficient and utterly without scandal and whoever is selected to be the standard bearer in the fall will be proud of the opportunity to stand upon the recorded work of the Republican party."

### CERTIFY STATE BALLOTS FOR MEN IN SERVICE

Hartford, July 18—Certification of the state tickets to be placed on the soldiers' ballots has been completed by the secretary of state. There are seven tickets in the field. The last addition was that of the Citizens party. The nominees are: For governor Thomas J. Spillacy, Hartford; for lieutenant governor, Clifford B. Wilson, Bridgeport; for secretary of state, Frederick L. Perry New Haven; for treasurer, Charles S. Avery, Norwich; for comptroller, Charles B. Pinney, Stafford; for attorney general, Frank E. Healy, Windsor Locks. Mr. Pinney is the nominee for comptroller on the Democratic ticket, he having been made so on the declaration of Charles T. Davis of Middletown, the convention nominee, to run.

The Socialist Labor has named Herman Klawansky for governor and has candidates for congress in all districts except the Fifth, and candidates for sheriff in Hartford and Tolland counties.

### TURKS REPORT JORDAN VICTORY

London, July 18—An official statement has been issued in Constantinople relative to the fighting in Palestine on July 13 and 14, saying that east of the Jordan a Turkish assault provoked a British counter action, supported by a cavalry division and armored cars. The Turkish war office claims this division was nearly annihilated only stragglers escaping.

Reuter's correspondent in Palestine says the Turkish attack early Sunday proved costly and failed to gain ground. The enemy lost 600 prisoners, it is said, of whom more than half were Germans.

### BETHEL RESIDENCE BURNS.

Bethel, July 18—Fire of undetermined origin partly destroyed the residence of Mrs. Grover Parsons on Fleetwood avenue Tuesday night, causing \$2,500 damage. As neighboring buildings were in danger motor pump apparatus was summoned from Danbury, but the fire was confined to the building in which it originated.

### OFFENBURG BOMBED.

London, July 18—British aviators again have attacked Offenbourg, near Karlsruhe, and Thionville, near Metz, says the official statement from the ministry. Good bursts were observed at Offenbourg and a fire followed by explosions was started in Thionville.

From Different Sources Reports Come Telling of Progress Made By Allies.

### DETAILS OF BATTLE NOT YET RECEIVED

Attack Appears to Be Serious Menace to Germans Below Aisne.

(By the Associated Press.)

Gen. Foch, the Allied commander in chief, has taken the aggressive on an important scale, attacking this morning on a 25-mile front between the Aisne and the Marne—the westerly side of the Germans' Marne salient.

The attack appears to be a significant counter stroke to the German drive along the Marne - Rheims - Champagne front.

From various sources come reports that the battle is progressing favorably to the Allied forces, which presumably include American troops.

The front of the attack runs from Fontenoy, six miles west of Soissons, to the town of Belleau, on the Clichon river. Few details of the battle are yet available, the main fact officially stated being that at various points along this front progress of from a mile and a half to two miles has been made and that prisoners have been taken.

The situation on this front presents interesting possibilities. The battle line, when the German offensive paused at the Marne early in June, closely resembled the letter V, with the acute angle blunted. Since their attack on Monday morning the Germans have made progress which has changed the form of the line to that of the letter U, the right leg of which is shorter than the left.

From Fontenoy, at the tip of the left leg, to Rheims, on the end of the right, is about 37 miles. The distance from the Aisne to the present battle front south of the Marne is about 25 miles.

It is along the left leg of the U that the Allied onslaught began this morning. Behind the Allied lines is the forest of Villers Cotterets, with a network of strategic wagon roads and three railroad lines. In front of them there is an important railroad line running southward from Soissons to Chateau Thierry, presumably used as a supply artery for a large proportion of the enemy troops along the Marne river. This railroad was about four miles from the Allied front when the attack was started today.

If the attack of the Allies is what it appears to be, it is a serious threat to the whole German position south of the Aisne. Rapid progress by the Allies to the eastward would compel the abandonment of the German offensive which is now apparently directed toward Epernay, to the south of Rheims mountain. It might, if successful even bring about a German retreat from the whole Soissons-Marne-Rheims salient, with potential disastrous results to the enemy in the loss of men, guns and material.

During the last three weeks the French have carried out several local operations southwest of Soissons, along the line where the present Allied effort is made. By these operations the French line from the region of Ambleny, south of Fontenoy, to Longpont, nearly eight miles farther south, was advanced and strengthened. Before today's attack began the French held positions along a series of ridges on a five mile line from Ambleny to St. Pierre Aigle, and were in strong entrenchments farther south.

The part American troops are taking in the Allied counter blow is as yet unknown. The line mentioned in the official statement from Paris, however, indicates a section of the positions held by the Americans in the neighborhood of Chateau Thierry. Gen. Pershing's men are known to be at Belleau and they have been mentioned as being as far north as Torcy, on the south side of the Clichon river, above Belleau wood.

Measuring from the Aisne river, around the Chateau Thierry salient and thence to Massiges, in the Champagne, the eastern limits of the present struggle, the length of the battle line is about 105 miles, which is the widest front that has been in active battle on the western front since the early days of the war.

Official reports appeared to show the German stroke against the Marne-Rheims-Champagne line has not gained further ground over night. At Nanteuil la Fosse, the region southwest of Rheims, a heavy German attack was crushed, while an assault by guard regiments north of Proseaux, east of Rheims, was broken by the Allies.

## BRITISH DRIVE AHEAD FOR MORE THAN MILE SOUTH OF THE SOMME

Advance Is Made Southeast of Villers Bretonneux, Says Official Statement From Headquarters in France—Positions to East of Hebuterne Are Improved and South of Bucquoy German Raiding Party is Repulsed—In Fighting North of Marne Italians Have Retaken Clairizet Village.

Southeast of Villers Bretonneux, south of the Somme, the British line has been advanced on a front of more than one mile, says the official statement today from British headquarters in France.

The British positions to the east of Hebuterne also were improved.

South of Bucquoy, on the front southeast of Arras, a German raiding party was driven off.

The German artillery showed considerable activity during the night on the Flanders front, north of Bailleul.

The French, the reports say, have recaptured Montvoisin, south of the Marne, at the point where the Germans had advanced farthest toward Epernay, and Chene la Reine, to the west, and took as well the heights west of those villages, overlooking the Marne.

The Germans are reported to have made slight progress, north of St. Agnan, in the district to the southwest of Dormans, below the Marne, but their progress here has been slow.

The maximum penetration of the French lines since July 15 is six miles, according to the latest reports.

In fighting north of the Marne the Italians have retaken the village of Clairizet, two miles northeast of Bligny, the advances add.

News received in London indicates the attack started by the French this morning on the front between Chateau Thierry and Soissons is on a considerable scale. The attack was believed to be making good progress.

Advices this afternoon said the Germans had made no further attacks east of Rheims and that the French at various points on the front had regained ground.

Reports received in London showed the situation up to noon all along the line of the attack begun by the French this morning to be excellent.

The attack is the biggest offensive move made this year by the Allies.

## PERSHING STILL HOPES ROOSEVELT IS ALIVE

Sends Cable Message to Colonel in Which Suggestion Is Held Out Lieutenant May Have Landed Safely After Fall.

New York, July 18—Col. Theodore Roosevelt just before leaving the city for Saratoga to attend the Republican state convention today, received a cablegram from Gen. Pershing in which the American commander expressed the hope that Lieut. Quentin Roosevelt, the colonel's son, reported killed in an aerial battle in France, may have landed safely.

### CHAMBERS HIT IN RECENT FIGHTING ON BATTLE LINE

General Pershing's casualty list today reports the name of Lawrence A. Chambers, 185 Fairfield avenue, age 22, of this city. Chambers enlisted on May 23, 1917, in the 26th infantry. He was in training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, for seven months, then was sent to France to join his company, which has for its captain, Archie Roosevelt. In communications to his friends he has reported active service almost continually since his arrival, and also that he was gassed on May 27 of this year.

The account this morning speaks of him as "slightly wounded." Chambers is well known in this city among the younger men, having been a member of the First District Republican Club, Foresters of America, and Company A of the Home Guard. While in this city he was employed at the Remington Arms in the bayonet-filing department.

### WAR STAMP SALES.

The sale of War Savings Stamps in the city yesterday was \$4,637.95 and in the state \$54,500.25.

The cablegram read: "Regret very much that your son, Lieut. Quentin Roosevelt, reported as missing. On July 14, with a patrol of 12 planes, he left on a mission of protecting photographic section. Seven enemy planes were sighted and attacked after which enemy planes returned and our planes broke off combat, returning to their base. Lieut. Roosevelt did not return. A member of the squadron reports seeing one of our planes fall out of the combat and into the clouds and the French report an American plane was seen descending. "I hope he may have landed safely. Will advise you immediately on receipt of further information." Col. Roosevelt, in reply, cable: "We are deeply grateful for your thoughtful kindness and we never will forget it."

Col. Roosevelt's attitude seemed more hopeful than on receipt last night of word sent from Paris by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., saying that reports of Quentin's death was "absolutely unconfirmed" there.

### LIEUT. MILLS DEAD.

Middletown, July 18—Lieut. Harold C. Mills, who was graduated from Trinity college in 1915, and who was studying for the ministry at Berkeley divinity school here last year, when he left for Fort Benjamin Harrison to enter the army, is dead in France, according to word received today. His father is the Rev. S. A. Mills, rector of St. Luke's church, Troy, N. Y.